the scarlatinal poison on the mucous membrane of the stomach, it is not unlikely to prove active for good, and certainly deserves a trial.

In the form of spray, I have used a solution varying in different cases from five to ten minims of the acid to an ounce of water for the purpose of inhalation. It has been employed in the early and advanced stage of phthisis—in so-called laryngeal phthisis, in chronic bronchitis, in gangrene of the lung, and in various affections of the throat, including diphtheria. In the last named, it does not prove so useful as the pure solution of permanganate of potash administered in the same way, which sometimes appears to exercise a magical effect in clearing the throat of the membrane; but in all the other forms of complaint it exercises in many instances a decidedly beneficial influence. It lessens the irritability of the mucous surface and facilitates expectoration, and the patients aver that it affords relief. In gangrene of the lung, it removes the fetid odour, and otherwise appears to be productive of good.

The only disagreeable symptom which I have observed to follow its employment in the form of spray, has been occasional faintness when the inhalation has been continued too long. The time at which this faintness occurs varies greatly in different cases, and I therefore instruct the patient to desist from inhaling as soon as the slightest discomfort arises. My impression, however, is, that this faintness is not induced by the action of the acid, but rather by the abnegation of atmospheric air which attends inhalation with Siegle's apparatus; for, in every instance except one in which I have observed it, Siegle's steam-apparatus was being employed. I therefore prefer using the common hand-bellows, previously heating the solution of acid if the inhalation of cold spray seem likely to be prejudicial.—*Brit. Med. Journ.*, Feb. 20, 1869.

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8. *Mr. Lister's Carbolic Acid Lac Plaster.*—The following is the formula for its preparation: Take of shellac three parts, and crystallized carbolic acid one part. Heat the lac with about a third part of the carbolic acid over a slow fire till the lac is completely melted; then remove from the fire, add the remainder of the acid, and stir briskly till the ingredients are thoroughly mixed. Next strain through muslin, and pour into the machine for spreading plaster; and when the liquid has thickened by cooling to a degree ascertained by experience, spread to the thickness of about one-fiftieth of an inch. Afterwards brush the surface of the plaster lightly with a solution of gutta-percha in about thirty parts of bisulphide of carbon. When the sulphide has all evaporated the plaster may be piled in suitable length in a tin box.

For an antiseptic dressing that is intended to be changed from time to time, perfect absence of adhesiveness is a most valuable property; not only because it permits all discharge to escape beneath it into the porous material placed outside to absorb it, but because it avoids traction upon any deeper dressing or upon the skin during the process of withdrawing it, with the concomitant risk of regurgitation of air or liquid charged with living putrefactive organisms.

But for the permanent dressing in compound fracture this complete want of adhesiveness is the converse of what we desire. Here, the material employed, being designed to form part of the scab, should stick to the skin or to anything that lies beneath it. The lac prepared as above described may, however, be readily made suitable for this purpose, by rubbing off the film of gutta percha by firm friction with a dry cloth, and then brushing the surface over with liquid carbolic acid. It then, at once, assumes a sufficient degree of adhesiveness.—*Brit. Med. Journ.*, Nov. 14, 1868.

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9. *Some Phenomena of Anæsthesia by Protoxide of Nitrogen.*—Mr. F. W. BRAINE, in a paper on this subject (*British Medical Journal*, Jan. 23, 1869), observes: "It is curious to remark how often, as unconsciousness comes on, the ruling idea is one of noise and motion combined. Some patients think they are seated in, or running after, an omnibus; but many more imagine themselves in a railway carriage, travelling faster and faster, till they suddenly seem to enter a dark tunnel, and then all is a blank to them. Sensual emotions are not unfrequently excited in both sexes. A man, who had been married about three months, stated, on awakening, that he had been dreaming of his wife; and an

unmarried hysterical girl certainly gave evidence, by her movements, that she was quite aware of one of the duties of married life; and, moreover, in this case, the idea was still present when she was able to speak, for she addressed the administrator in terms far fonder than the occasion warranted; while another girl, who had behaved in a similar manner, said, 'I hope I have not said anything naughty.' Both of these cases brought forcibly to one's recollection, many trumped-up cases of felonious assault, and how extremely inadvisable it is to have recourse to anæsthesia without a third person being in the room.

"At a recent meeting of the Odontological Society, it was stated that the nitrous oxide had been administered in a few cases of pregnancy; but, delivery not having at that time taken place in any one of these cases, the condition of the fœtus *in utero* was unknown. A lady, one of the above cases, whom I put fully under the influence of the gas twice during the eighth month, has just been confined with a fine healthy boy; so that, in this case at least, the gas cannot have interfered with the nutrition of the child, for it weighed at birth eleven pounds and a half.

"When administered to a girl, aged nineteen, with cavities in the apices of both lungs, the patient was insensible at the end of forty-five seconds. The respiration suddenly became very shallow and panting, while, instead of the rosy hue which generally appears over the face and lips on the removal of the face-piece, the lips and face became more dusky before the red tint appeared; the pulse was not affected, but the respiration, for more than half an hour afterwards, was very shallow and hurried."

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10. *Mr. Higginbottom's Method of Using the Nitrate of Silver in Erysipelatous Inflammation.*—Mr. JOHN HIGGINBOTTOM complains that the correct directions either in regard to the strength of the solution of nitrate, or the proper method of applying it, is not given in the various medical and surgical works he has seen, and he therefore describes (*Practitioner*, January, 1869) the following as his method:—

"The affected part should be well washed with soap and water, then with water alone, to remove every particle of soap, as the soap would decompose the nitrate of silver; then to be wiped dry with a soft towel. *The concentrated solution of four scruples of the nitrate of silver to four drachms of distilled water is then to be applied two or three times on the inflamed surface and beyond it, on the healthy skin, to the extent of two or three inches.* The solution may be applied with a small piece of clean linen, attached to the end of a short stick; the linen to be renewed at every subsequent application. As the solution of nitrate of silver is colourless, it is necessary to pass a little linen, just moistened, over every part where it has been used, in order to be equally diffused, so that no part be left untouched.

"In about twelve hours it will be seen whether the solution has been well applied. If any inflamed part be unaffected, the solution must be immediately reapplied. Sometimes, even after the most decided application of the nitrate of silver, the inflammation may spread; but is then generally much less severe, and is eventually checked by repeated application. It is desirable to visit the patient every twelve hours, until the inflammation is subdued.

"By these means we have complete control over the disease.

"For the successful application of the nitrate of silver the ordinary brittle stick, either solid or in solution, must be used. Not the 'lunar caustic points perfectly tough,' nor the crystals and cake used for photographic purposes."

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11. *Convallarin and Convallamarin.*—Dr. MARMÉE, of Göttingen, describes two glucosides, under the above names, which are obtained from the Convallaria majalis. 1. *Convallarin*, although nearly insoluble in water, acts as a purge without apparent inconvenience, in three or four grain doses, and even in larger quantities seems not to gripe at all. 2. *Convallamarin* is bitter and soluble in water; it causes some vomiting even when given in small doses. In larger quantities it is an energetic heart-poison; injection of 15 to 20 milligrammes ($\frac{3}{20}$ to $\frac{6}{20}$ grain) into the venous system of dogs produces paralysis of the heart, nearly always accompanied by clonic convulsions. The heart is quite unirritable, even if examined immediately. The respiration lasts longer than the heart's